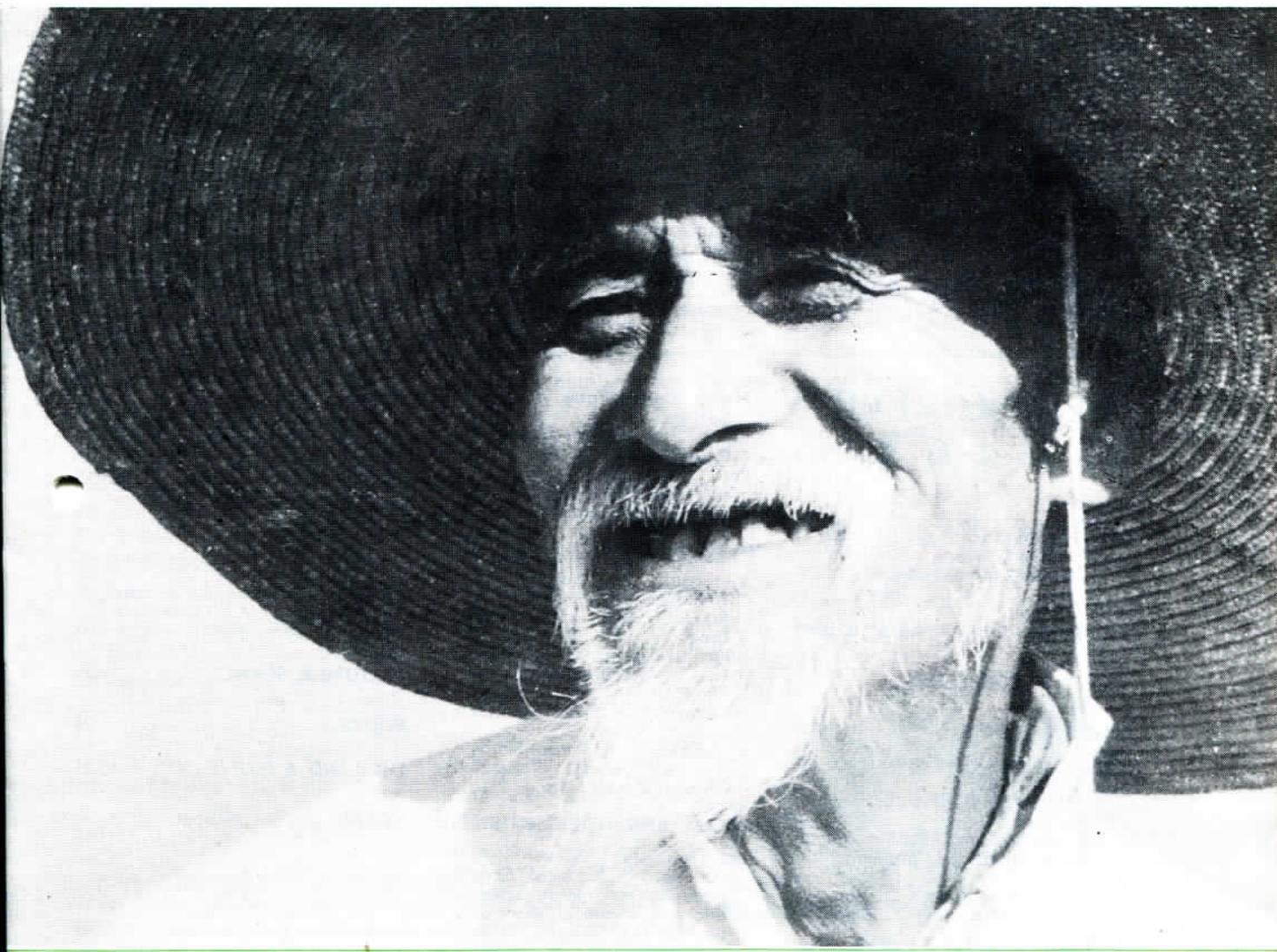


BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY
OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Hu Yaobang on Development of Science
- Rural Life in China
- Militarization of Viet Nam



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Life in a People's Commune

Our correspondent visits the Qianzhou Commune on the east China plain. She files back a report on its three-tiered management system and the life and hopes of its members and leaders (p. 17). A companion piece to an earlier special feature "A Glimpse of Factory Life" (see issue No. 11, 1980), it gives a cross-section view of life in China's 50,000 people's communes.

The March on Science

Comrade Hu Yaobang underlines the three major measures to develop China's science and technology. The General Secretary is speaking to a Beijing science conference on behalf of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (p. 13).

Financial News

With 100 million depositors and over 30,000 million yuan

deposited, banks in China are boosting interest rates for depositors (p. 6); efforts to keep prices basically stable (p. 5) and foreign exchange certificates issued (p. 6).

Health Programme for Rural Women

Fifty million peasant women were given free medical check-ups for gynaecological diseases; 70 million more under 60 will be examined (p. 27).

Co-operation With Other Countries

Sino-U.S. protocol on utilization of hydroelectric power; processing and assembling of electronic products for foreign firms (p. 8); and joint efforts in publishing (p. 28).

Militarization in Viet Nam

Stepping up the country's militarization can only worsen its economic plight and make life even harder for its people. Dependence on Moscow and the

threat to Asian peace will grow (p. 9).

Tension in El Salvador

The assassination of Archbishop Romero and the clashes which followed spotlight the growing socio-political contradictions in this Central American republic and the danger of external interference (p. 12).

Books: "History of Modern Chinese Thought"

A collection of ten essays on modern Chinese thinkers, pointing to the pervasive influence of feudal and petty bourgeois ideas on Chinese politics (p. 29).



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POLITICAL

Emphasis on Collective Leadership

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has gradually restored the system of collective leadership which was seriously sabotaged. The recent Fifth Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee once again stressed that Party committees, from the Central Committee down to the grass-roots level, must practise collective leadership in real earnest.

This is an important measure for perfecting Party life and improving Party leadership. *Renmin Ribao* on March 23 frontpaged an editorial on this question with the following main points:

- Collective leadership is the supreme principle of Party leadership. The Communist Party, which differs from other political parties, has always relied on collective wisdom and experience. This being the case, all major issues must be discussed and decided collectively by the Party committees, and not arbitrarily by an individual or a few people.

- Collective leadership means the application of the principle of democratic centralism in the leading bodies at all levels. The practice of collective leadership requires both democracy and centralism, and to realize correct centralism, it is necessary to give full play to democracy within the Party committees.

- In order to uphold collective leadership, it is essential to oppose the overestimation of the role of any individual.

Lenin said: "In the sea of people we are after all but a drop in the ocean, and we administer only when we express correctly what the people are conscious of." Experiences gained in the international communist movement and in our Party have proved that if leading members, including outstanding leaders, were to over-stress their personal role and act arbitrarily, they would make mistakes and bring great harm to the cause of the Party.

- Historical experience proves that it is not a bad thing to permit the airing of differing views and debate their merits, because that will impel us to analyse and study all problems more thoroughly, take every possibility into consideration and handle them in the best possible way. This will help prevent mistakes.

- Strengthening collective leadership does not in the least mean negating or reducing personal responsibility. Under collective leadership, every Party committee member must assume responsibility and do his own work well. Only in this way will the Party committee be full of vigour and efficient.

In Memory of Revolutionary Martyrs

On April 4, the date of the traditional Qing Ming Festival this year when the Chinese people commemorate and pay tribute to the dead, many youngsters in Beijing gathered in front of the Monument to the People's Heroes at Tian An Men Square and carried out various activities in commem-

oration of the revolutionary martyrs.

The monument was surrounded by hundreds of wreaths and baskets of flowers, most of which were dedicated to the revolutionary martyrs and the people's heroes and some were especially made for the departed veteran proletarian revolutionaries.

On one scroll these words were written: "Without Chairman Mao, there would be no New China. One should never forget the well-digger when one drinks water. Eternal glory to Chairman Mao Zedong!"

Among the poems in memory of Comrade Zhou Enlai, one read: "Your ashes were scattered across the motherland; wherever they fell, the plum trees have grown up. When you come and look around, you will smile on seeing the plums in full bloom."

On a wreath dedicated to Comrade Liu Shaoqi, these words were written on a scroll: "Your magnificent contributions made in 50 years will go down in the annals of history with everybody singing the praises of you."

Over the past few days, group after group of Communist Youth League members and Young Pioneers, carrying their bright banners and wreaths,



went to the Monument to the People's Heroes to pay their tribute to the revolutionary martyrs. They pledged to follow the Party's instructions, carry out the behests of the martyrs, study assiduously and work hard so as to contribute to the accomplishment of the four modernizations.

Comrade Li Lisan Rehabilitated

A memorial meeting was held in Beijing on March 20 for Comrade Li Lisan. He was rehabilitated as a proletarian revolutionary and one of the outstanding leaders in China's workers movement. Chairman Hua Guofeng and other Party and state leaders presented wreaths. Deng Xiaoping and other leaders of the Party and state attended the memorial meeting.

This is another step taken by the Party to uphold the tradition which Chairman Mao advocated, that is, seeking truth from facts and correcting mistakes whenever they are discovered.

Li Lisan died on June 22, 1967 at the age of 68 after cruel persecution by Lin Biao and the gang of four.

Wang Zhen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, delivered a memorial speech. He said that Li Lisan was a native of Liling, Hunan Province. Born in 1899, he dedicated himself to China's revolutionary cause when he was young. In 1919, he went to France on a work-study programme where he took part in revolutionary activities among the Chinese students and workers there. He was admitted into the Chinese Communist Party in 1921 after he returned to China.

In 1922, he and Comrade Liu Shaoqi went to Anyuan to take part in leading the strike of the railwaymen and coal-miners there, which played an important role in developing the workers movement throughout the country.

In 1927, he followed Comrade Zhou Enlai in participating in the Nanchang Uprising.

In 1930 when he worked in the Party Central Committee in Shanghai, he initiated the erroneous "Left" deviationist line (the Lisan line). It was not long before he became aware of his mistake and corrected it.

In 1931, the Party sent him to study in the Soviet Union. There he worked with the Red International of Trade Unions and the foreign languages press. He was once the editor of the newspaper *Jiu Guo Shi Bao* (Save the Country). He also led the translation work on Marxist-Leninist classics, which helped greatly in propagating Marxism-Leninism.

In 1948, he became responsible for the day-to-day work of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, making contributions to organizing the workers in consolidating the newborn political power of the people and restoring the national economy.

Wang Zhen said that following the start of the Cultural Revolution, he disregarded the vilification and persecution by Lin Biao and the gang of four, upheld principle, sought truth from facts and arrayed himself against them.

In conclusion, Wang Zhen said that Comrade Li Lisan led a revolutionary life, a life of struggle. He dedicated all his energy to the cause of the Chinese people's liberation and to the great cause of communism.

Seamen From the Mainland Visit Taiwan

Seventeen seamen from the mainland of China working on a West German freighter were given a warm welcome and reception by their Taiwan compatriots when their ship recently called at Jilong in Taiwan. At the invitation of the Jilong branch of the Taiwan Seamen's Association, they went ashore and were taken on a tour of the city of Taipei.

Referring to this visit, Qiu Jin, Vice-Chairman of the Seamen's Trade Union of China, said on April 4 that it was a good thing because it helped enhance mutual understanding between the people on the mainland and Taiwan and was therefore welcomed by the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. "We hope that there will be more contacts of this kind in the future," he added.

"Seamen on the mainland have received their Taiwan colleagues on many occasions," he continued. "More Taiwan seamen are welcome to come to the mainland either as tourists or to visit their relatives. We will give them a warm reception."

Interflow of Goods. Recently a spokesman for the General Administration of Customs said that trade between the mainland and Taiwan is regional interflow of goods. Under the existing conditions, in order to promote trade between trade corporations on the mainland and industrial and commercial circles on Taiwan Island, trade corporations on the mainland may apply to the Chinese customs for permission to ship goods from or to Taiwan, and the customs will accept certificates issued by the Taiwan authorities and their subordinate organizations.

Re-education Through Labour

The Decision Concerning Offenders Ordered to Be Re-educated Through Labour and supplementary provisions to the decision were republished in full recently in Beijing's leading newspapers.

The decision was approved at the 78th Session of the Standing Committee of the First National People's Congress on August 1, 1957, and proclaimed by the State Council on August 1 of the same year. The supplementary provisions were promulgated by the State Council on November 29, 1979 after being approved the same day by the 12th Session of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress.

The decision applies to people who refuse to respond positively to repeated criticisms and help, those found guilty of disorderly behaviour, minor theft, false representation, hooliganism, and those expelled from

factories, schools, state organs and other organizations and having no visible means of support. The decision is designed to provide compulsory measures to re-educate people whose offences are generally not serious enough to bear criminal responsibility, and to prepare them to take up employment.

Re-education through labour for these offenders ranges from one year to three years. It may be extended for another year if necessary. During this period of compulsory re-education, the inmates are paid for what they do. Part of their earnings is deducted by the authorities if necessary to support the inmates' dependents or held back for issuance to the inmates upon release.

According to the supplementary provisions, no discrimination is permitted in job opportunities and education against those who have served time in re-education centres, nor against members of their families.

A joint committee consisting of leaders of departments of civil affairs, public security and labour will be set up in every province, municipality, autonomous region and in every large and medium-sized city to be responsible for implementing the decision and the supplementary provisions.

In a frontpage commentary, *Renmin Ribao* described the decision and supplementary provisions as "important administrative decrees." Their effective implementation helps improve and consolidate the socialist legal system, protects the people's democratic rights, and smooths the path for the country's modernization effort, the commentary said.



Li Heng, a young worker, was once led astray. After two years' re-education through labour, he turned over a new leaf and joined the Communist Youth League.

Over the past two decades or so, the commentary recalled, the majority of those made to undergo re-education as provided by the decision were successfully reformed and were taught to become honest people earning a living by their own labour.

There are now still a number of people who are engaged in hooliganism and constantly disrupting social order. They may commit serious crimes if compulsory and administrative measures are not taken to educate and reform them, the commentary said.

ECONOMIC

Ensuring Basically Stable Prices

China's commercial departments are taking measures to ensure that market prices remain basically stable. These include the strict control of prices for articles of daily use, small commodities and food, as well as charges for the service trades. The raising of prices in any form is forbidden without proper authorization.

Keeping the prices basically stable is an important task set forth at a national price conference held earlier this year.

In March last year, the state purchasing prices for agricultural products were raised by a wide margin. This was an important measure to readjust the proportional relationship between different branches of the national economy and to reduce the price differences between industrial and farm products and was necessary and correct. Since last November, eight kinds of farm and side-

line products have been sold at higher prices.

The increase in prices, however, has caused a big chain reaction involving other food-stuffs that use the eight products as raw materials. This has led to new contradictions. Owing to the lack of strict control and supervision, the prices of many commodities have been raised without authorization. In some places, the price hikes involved quite many commodities and affected the livelihood of the workers and staff members.

That was why the national price conference decided that it was essential to handle properly the problems left over from the increase in retail prices, and to reduce the chain reaction to the minimum, so as to stabilize prices. There will be no change in the prices for daily necessities, with the exception of a very few commodities whose prices are too low.

The conference stressed that the fundamental way to stabilize prices is for the industrial and commercial enterprises to increase production, practise economy, cut waste, improve management, and lower the cost of production and operation, so as to supply the market with a

larger amount of good and cheap commodities.

Higher Interest Rates for Bank Savings

Interest rates on fixed term deposits for urban and rural account holders, including overseas Chinese, have gone up starting from April 1 this year. This is the second increase within a year. The first took effect in April of last year.

The monthly rate of interest has gone up from 0.3 per cent to 0.36 per cent for six-month deposits; from 0.33 per cent to 0.45 per cent for one-year deposits; from 0.375 per cent to 0.51 per cent for three-year deposits; and from 0.42 per cent to 0.57 per cent for five-year deposits.

The rates of interest for fixed term deposits of overseas Chinese are even higher.

The monthly interest rate for current deposits will also be increased on July 1 this year from 0.18 per cent to 0.24 per cent.

A national conference on bank savings was held in Beijing last month. It noted that the increase in interest rates would encourage more people to put their money in the bank and

thus support the country's economic construction.

At present, more than 100 million depositors in both urban and rural areas have bank deposits, 80 per cent of which are fixed term ones. By the end of last February, total bank deposits had exceeded 30,000 million yuan and last year alone saw an increase of 4,700 million yuan.

China Issues Foreign Exchange Certificates

To strengthen foreign exchange control, the State Council has authorized the Bank of China to issue foreign exchange certificates on April 1, 1980. These certificates are valid in China for specific purposes only.

In January this year the State Council issued a notice prohibiting the circulation of foreign currencies in China. The Bank of China is now issuing certificates for foreigners, overseas Chinese and Chinese compatriots from Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao) who come to China on visits or for cultural and economic exchanges, as well as for diplomatic corps and foreign representatives with offices in China. The certificates are to be used in place of Renminbi, the official currency, in hotels, shops, foreign trade centres and other places serving them exclusively and for the payment of plane, train or ship fares to Xianggang and Aomen and of international telecommunications and parcel post charges.

A responsible member of the Bank of China stated that the issuance of foreign exchange certificates would enable foreigners and tourists coming to China to buy at designated places goods which were in



Liaoning peasants deposit their savings in a bank.

short supply and which could not be obtained with Renminbi, and to pay for services which had to be paid with foreign currencies. The certificates are coupons for Renminbi with the value of foreign exchange and not another currency.

With the issuance of such certificates, all the places which used to accept foreign currencies directly will mark prices in Renminbi and accept the certificates instead of foreign currencies.

The Bank of China's provisional regulations on foreign exchange certificates stipulate that such certificates may be exchanged at its branch offices or at designated exchange centres in various parts of the country. Foreigners, overseas Chinese and compatriots from Xianggang and Aomen coming on short visits may convert the certificates into foreign currencies again upon their departure or take the certificates out of the country.

Port Construction

Fifty-eight deep-water berths for ships of 10,000 tons and above are being built at about a dozen Chinese ports. Some will be able to accommodate ships of 100,000 tons.

Six of the new berths — three at Tianjin, two at Guangzhou and one at Shanghai — will be specially for containerized cargoes. The other 52 will handle coal, steel, mineral ores and other bulk cargoes.

Technical transformation has been going on in some of China's major ports. Among them are Dalian, Qinhuangdao, Lianyungang, Qingdao, Huangpu and Yantai. At Beilun Harbour which serves the Baoshan Iron and Steel Complex in Shanghai,



The new port in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province.

a new berth for 100,000-ton ships and two for 25,000-ton ships are being built. Five berths for ships of 10,000 tons as well as facilities for smaller vessels have been completed at south China's Huangpu Harbour, which is now an important port capable of handling more than 10 million tons of cargo a year.

More than 80 per cent of the loading and unloading at China's sea ports and major ports along the Changjiang River is now mechanized. Manual labour is done only in warehouses and on ships and trains.

At some of the newly built wharves, radar equipment is being installed to guide ships into the harbour.

Altogether, 44 new deep-water berths have been built at Chinese ports since 1973. In Shanghai, China's biggest port, 16 berths have been built or renovated in recent years for freighters of up to 25,000 tons; in addition, six wharves have been completed for special cargoes like oil. Last year, the Shanghai Harbour handled 80 million tons of cargo, 20 million more than in 1978.

Modernization March

Iron Ore Reserves. Iron ore reserves in the country reached 44,000 million tons by the end of last year, including the 8,500 million tons discovered in the past four years, according to the Ministry of Geology.

Large iron ore deposits have been found in 18 provinces and autonomous regions, but most of them contain low-grade ore or are associated with other metals. Since 1975, geologists have been organized to look for high-grade ore. General surveys in the past four years showed that there are more than 20 areas each with a proven reserve of over 100 million tons of iron ore.

Big Coalfield. A big coalfield with a proven reserve of 14,600 million tons has been discovered in an area of 1,723 square kilometres in Jungar Banner (county), Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. Potential reserves have been estimated at more than 36,000 million tons. Detailed prospecting has been completed in an area with about 3,000 million tons of deposits.

Different varieties of coal are found in the field. As the coal

seams are close to the surface, they are suitable for strip mining.

New Oilfield. A new oilfield with abundant reserves of light low-sulphur oil is being developed along the lower reaches of the Huanghe (Yellow) River.

Located in the border areas of Shandong and Henan Provinces where several trunk railway lines pass by, the Dongpu Oilfield stretches across nine counties along both banks of the second largest river in China.

More than 200 producing wells, water injection wells and exploratory wells have been drilled and over 200 kilometres of underground pipelines laid. A power-supplying system and other construction work have been completed.

Oil in South China Sea. Exploration of China's northern continental shelf of Nanhai (South China) Sea indicates the presence of rich oil and gas deposits, according to experts attending a recent national meeting for studying the strata of the northern continental shelf in the Nanhai Sea.

Research by Chinese scientists in the strata of this region began in early 60s. Explorations are going on in a number of areas on the shelf.

Highway Bridge. The two sections of a highway bridge across the upper reaches of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River near Chongqing were joined together recently.

The bridge is 1,120 metres long and 21 metres wide. The span of the main navigation arch is 174 metres long, the longest of this kind of highway bridge in China. The height of the piers, from 50 to 60 metres, will make the sailing of big ships underneath possible even during flood seasons. Trucks with a large platform trailer

carrying about 200 tons can pass over the bridge in safety.

Construction of the bridge began in November 1977 and its piers were completed in last December. It is scheduled to open to traffic in July this year.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Economic Co-operation

Annex to Protocol on Sino-U.S. Co-operation in Hydroelectric Power. Chinese and U.S. representatives in Beijing recently signed the annex to the Protocol Between the Chinese and U.S. Governments on Co-operation in Hydroelectric Power and Related Water Resource Management which had been concluded last year.

The annex stipulates: The two sides will co-operate on hydroelectric power and related water resource management projects on China's Hongshui River, on the Longtan and Datengxia hydroelectric power projects, on multi-purpose technological projects in the Three Gorges area, on the Ertan hydroelectric power project, and on scientific and technical research to control the Changjiang River.

Joint Elevator Company to Be Set Up. On March 19, the China Construction Machinery Corporation, the Schindler Holding Ag, a Swiss firm, and the Jardine Schindler (Far East) Holdings, S.A., a Xianggang firm, signed an agreement on establishing a joint elevator company — the China-Schindler Elevator Co., Ltd.

Its registered capital will be 16 million U.S. dollars, of which 12 million will be furnished by

the China Construction Machinery Corporation in the form of buildings, machinery and the inventory of the Shanghai Elevator Factory and the machinery and inventory of the old Beijing Elevator Factory. The balance, in the form of cash, will be supplied by the Schindler Holding Ag and the Jardine Schindler (Far East) Holdings, S.A. This company is one of the larger enterprises to be run jointly by China and overseas companies since China adopted its Law on Joint Ventures.

Processing and Assembling for Foreign Firms. Eighty-nine Chinese factories have already signed 186 contracts worth 24 million U.S. dollars with some 100 foreign firms for processing or assembling electronic products, says a spokesman of China's Fourth Ministry of Machine-Building Industry.

Products for processing and assembling include television sets, cassette recorders with radios, radio sets, calculators, electronic watches, electronic elements and household appliances.

The factories were given advanced equipment, instruments and meters, necessary tools and technical guidance by the foreign firms.

Talks are now under way with other firms from the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, France, Britain and Xianggang on co-operation in such matters as ground communications satellite stations, communication guidance, video broadcasting equipment, instruments and meters, computers and special radio equipment.

Such co-operation may take the form of processing and assembling materials supplied by the foreign firms, compensatory trade, or joint ventures.

Viet Nam

On the Road to Militarization

HOANG Tung, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and the newly appointed head of the Party's propaganda department, recently declared that Viet Nam's objective for 1981-85 is to militarize itself. In effect, the Vietnamese authorities have already taken measures for this purpose, especially since Viet Nam's invasion of Kampuchea.

Reorganization of the Supreme Military Organ. The recent reshuffle in the Military Commission of the C.P.V.N. Central Committee is but a new move to strengthen the leadership of the "national militarization."

The commission for a long time had had Vo Nguyen Giap, the former National Defence Minister, as its Secretary and Van Tien Dung, the former General Chief of Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army, as its Deputy Secretary. After the reorganization, the two posts were respectively taken over by Le Duan, General Secretary of the C.P.V.N. Central Committee, and Le Duc Tho who has for a long time been in charge of Party affairs and served as the head of the organization department of the Central Committee. And Van Tien Dung was promoted to the post of its First Deputy Secretary and also replaced Vo Nguyen Giap as the National Defence Minister.

Personnel shake-ups also took place in the Vietnamese Government and various headquarters of the Vietnamese army. For instance, Dinh Duc Thien, brother of Le Duc Tho and the former Head of the

General Logistics Department of the Vietnamese army, has been appointed Minister of Communications and Transport, and Le Trong Tan, the former Deputy General Chief of Staff of the Vietnamese army and the former commander-in-chief of the Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, has been named the General Chief of Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army.

The reorganization has put the military power under Le Duan's direct control. Le Duc Tho, a key figure of the Le Duan clique, now shares in the leadership of the supreme military organ, and Van Tien Dung, a favourite of Le Duan and Le Duc Tho, is a rising star.

It is the established line for the Vietnamese regional hegemonists, with the backing of



the Soviet Union, to occupy Laos, invade Kampuchea, oppose China and covet Southeast Asia. The change in the supreme military organ is designed precisely to step up the implementation of this line.

Party Purges and Army Expansion. To turn their troops into a lever for aggression and expansion abroad, the Vietnamese authorities have carried out large-scale Party purges in the army. They kicked out those who showed discontent with their policies or were regarded

as unreliable, with some thrown into the concentration camps. A single camp in Lam Dong Province detained several hundred army officers at all levels including the divisional one. Unable to endure the tyranny they were subjected to, they revolted and fled. The Vietnamese authorities have also purged those who "refused to implement the Party's domestic and foreign policies" by issuing Party membership cards. According to a report, 8.5 per cent of the Party members among the Vietnamese armoured troops have not received their Party membership cards.

After the large-scale conscription throughout the country since the beginning of last year, the number of Vietnamese troops has ballooned up to 1.2 million, or 2.2 per cent of the nation's population, which is 17 per cent of the people of conscription age. The Vietnamese paper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan* (People's Army) revealed that the newly recruited soldiers accounted for 95 per cent of the strength of some newly established companies. In addition, the Vietnamese authorities are redoubling their nationwide efforts to increase reserves of troops by developing paramilitary organizations and giving military training to workers, peasants, government functionaries and students of universities and middle schools and to put up military installations. To meet the needs of the large-scale army expansion and the national militarization drive, military academies and training courses have been set up under the auspices of various departments, army services and army command areas and units to train military commanders and key personnels.

What Does This Mean? The Vietnamese authorities' efforts to push militarization throughout the country, first of all, means the worsening of the Vietnamese people's conditions.

To maintain its enormous war machine and its 200,000 troops in Kampuchea, Viet Nam has continuously increased its military spending which was 40 per cent of the financial expenditure in 1978 and 47 per cent in 1979. This sank its already emaciated national economy into an abysmally chaotic state, stagnated production, drained the national treasury and escalated budget deficits. To scrape up more money and materials the Vietnamese authorities have no alternative but to step up their exploitation of the people.

They launched the so-called "grain collecting campaign" in rural areas to levy "compulsory grain" and requisition "surplus grain" from the peasants. In the cities and towns, they time and again cut down the food ration of the citizens and inflated consumer prices. In a speech in Hanoi on February 7, Le Duan asked his people to "tighten" their belts so as to concentrate part of the major resources for military use.

Secondly, it also means that the Vietnamese authorities are depending more than before on the Soviet Union.

In line with its strategy for a southward drive the Soviet Union is providing Viet Nam with large amounts of military equipment to push regional hegemonism. It is reported that its aid to Viet Nam averages 2.5-3 million U.S. dollars a day. This, of course, is not given gratis.

The Vietnamese authorities on their part do not hesitate to ask for Soviet support and aid

at the cost of Vietnamese sovereignty. According to a report, Vietnamese naval and air bases in Cam Ranh, Haiphong and Da Nang have one after another been opened to the Soviet Union since the signing of the Vietnamese-Soviet treaty of "friendship and co-operation" in November 1978, which actually constitutes a military alliance. There are



several thousand Soviet military advisers in Viet Nam. The country, therefore, has become a real "outpost" for the Soviet Union's push southward.

The Vietnamese move to push national militarization and seek regional hegemonism obviously indicates a growing danger of further aggression and expansion by Hanoi and a mounting threat to the peace and security of Southeast Asia. The people of the region and the rest of the world have to remain on the alert.

— "Beijing Review" news analyst An Ding

What Lies Behind the Kremlin's "Synchronization"

IN the past few weeks, the foreign ministers of Bulgaria, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Czechoslovakia were summoned to "visit" Moscow one after another. The Soviet weekly *New Times* in its 12th issue carried an article by its editorial board saying that the foreign ministers had achieved "synchronization" with the Kremlin. This once again proves that the fraternal countries have completely identical views on all major international issues, it added.

It may be recalled that "synchronization" was a word used by Khrushchev when the Soviet Union was in a predicament both internally and externally. It demanded that other countries and Parties dance to its tune so that their foreign policy could be "completely identical" with Moscow's.

Today, the demand for "synchronization" proves that the Soviet leaders feel their

"community" members are out of step with them and Moscow once again realizes a need to wave its baton.

According to TASS reports, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's talks with the visiting foreign ministers centred on the situation in the Near and Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Far East. He tried to justify the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan in his speeches at the banquets in honour of his guests.

The Soviet press has repeatedly published articles that blame the "fraternal Parties" and "community" members for the somewhat independent views they hold. The *New Times* charged that these Parties are "taking a two-faced stand," and denying the Soviet "right to aid" Afghanistan. The weekly said that those who do not follow Moscow in providing "aid" to Afghanistan are "objectively helping imperialism."

Obviously, Moscow is anxious to have East European countries "co-ordinate" with it because it has found itself isolated internationally as never before since its invasion of Afghanistan.

At a party in honour of the Bulgarian foreign minister, Gromyko revealed this anxiety. He said, "A co-ordinated foreign policy is now more important than ever before."

It is noteworthy that while receiving the guests, Moscow sent Soviet Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander of the joint forces of the Warsaw Pact, to visit some East European countries. It seems that the

aim is to kill two birds with one stone: To suppress those in Eastern Europe who dare to raise different views and to threaten West European countries with military force.

It is a fact clear to all that the Soviet Union has invaded Afghanistan and embarked on expansion in other parts of the world. The East European countries have suffered greatly from Soviet hegemonism. The Soviet efforts to force them to "synchronize" and "take co-ordinated actions" cannot change Moscow's isolated position, but can only show its weaknesses.

— *Xin Ping*

Moscow Lashes Out at Lisbon

IN answering questions raised by TV reporters not long ago, Portuguese Prime Minister Carneiro declared: "We do not allow any force to use internationalism as a pretext to oppose our country's domestic and foreign policies. We'll pay no attention to it, whether it is the internationalism of the Soviet Union, the third world countries or of any other countries."

The Prime Minister's statement was obviously an indirect reference to recent developments. The Soviet papers *Pravda* and *Soviet Skayarosia* recently launched fierce attacks against Portugal, accusing it of "opposing the Soviet Union," "obstructing Portuguese-Soviet relations" and "following a policy aimed at discarding all the positive results the April revolution brought to the people." They even called on the Portuguese

people to "rise up and take an active part in the struggle against the harmful policies of the government."

Portuguese Government's Position Supported. As everyone knows, the present Portuguese Government was sworn in last January at the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Together with all other governments throughout the world that uphold justice, the new Portuguese Government condemned the Soviet action as a "brazen violation of international law."

Then, the government announced the suspension of meetings and visits between the two countries at the "official and political levels," the abolition of a bilateral agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation and the decision not to sign a fishery agreement with Moscow.

The government was supported by many political parties and the press in the country. At the same time, it declared in its political programme that in foreign affairs it will give first priority to the entry of Portugal into the E.E.C. at the earliest possible date and will remain loyal to the North Atlantic alliance.

Soviet-Portuguese Relations. The Soviet Union has long been trying to stretch its tentacles into Portugal. Since the Portuguese people toppled the Salazar dictatorial regime on April 25, 1974, it has made use of many economic and social problems left behind by the regime to support the pro-Soviet forces within Portugal and egg them on to create social disturbances. On November 25, 1975, the Soviet Union went so far as to support certain people in launching a military coup to overthrow the legal government.

At the end of last year, the victory of the Democratic Alliance headed by Prime Minister Carneiro in an interim polling and the organization of a new cabinet were a fiasco for the pro-Soviet forces. The Soviet authorities showed extreme discontent, declaring that the rule of the Democratic Alliance "does not conform with the desire of the Portuguese people."

The Soviet Union also has exerted economic pressure over Portugal. On December 28, 1979, soon after the victory of the Alliance in the election, it reduced by 50 per cent the 900,000 tons of oil which it had undertaken to supply to Portugal under an agreement.

The Portuguese Government, however, held its ground. Speaking of the Soviet pressure, Prime Minister Carneiro said: We shall neither accommodate ourselves to the atmos-

phere of hegemonism, expansionism and imperialism created by the Soviet Union, nor yield because of need for oil.

— Fang Yuan

El Salvador

A Tense Situation

What kind of person was Archbishop Romero? Why was he murdered? In what way will the situation in that country develop? These topics are discussed below.

THE situation in El Salvador has been becoming tense since Salvadoran Archbishop Romero was murdered on March 24. On March 30 when some 60,000 people were attending his funeral in the capital, there was another incident of violence; it was reported that some 200 people were killed or wounded in gunfire and explosions. The junta announced on April 1 an extension of the state of siege for another 30 days beginning April 5.

A Famous Anti-Dictator Figure. Oscar Arnulfo Romero had been the Salvadoran archbishop since February 1977. That was in the year when a Right-wing bigwig, Carlos Humberto Romero, assumed presidency by bribery. His autocratic rule and slaughter met with the opposition of the people from every walk of life. The archbishop strongly denounced the dictatorship of the reactionary government, urging it to check the polarization between the rich and the poor. Because the regime's high-handed policy left no room for any opposition party and newspaper to exist legally, and El Salvador is a Catholic coun-

try, Archbishop Romero became the Salvadoran people's spiritual leader against the dictatorship.

Internal Contradictions and External Interference. The Carlos Humberto regime was toppled and a new junta set up in a coup last October. The junta announced it would allow the existence of various parties, respect freedom of speech, disband the ultra-Right terrorist organizations and carry out economic and social reforms. The United States welcomed this, while the Soviet Union and Cuba were obviously displeased. At first, some Salvadoran parties and guerrillas also expressed their support for the junta.

Archbishop Romero declared his support for the coup by calling on the guerrillas to lay down their arms. Hamstrung by the Right-wing forces in the army, however, the new junta has not fulfilled its promises, and, therefore, the national situation remains unstable. The armed anti-government organizations occupied foreign embassies, churches and radio stations. The ultra-Right forces also resorted to terrorist means more frequently than ever to try to bring the situation under their control.

On many occasions Archbishop Romero had urged the

junta to introduce social reforms in order to defend national independence, develop the national economy and improve the people's livelihood. To reduce the contradictions at home, the junta promulgated a decree in early March under which a limited land reform would be carried out by distributing 300,000 hectares of land to 50,000 peasant households and the banks would be nationalized.

However, it was just at such a juncture that Archbishop Romero was murdered. Up to now, the background behind his death is not quite clear. But one thing is certain: The unstable situation resulted from the deep-seated contradictions in the country, and he was murdered by evil forces, which hated his patriotic stand.

The turbulence has something to do with the situation in Central America and the Caribbean region as a whole. The Soviet Union and Cuba have all along been infiltrating this area, and El Salvador is not spared. In the name of "supporting" armed struggle, they have wormed themselves into some Salvadoran organizations. That has made the situation still more complicated and sensitive.

The Salvadoran people's struggle for democracy and their right to existence has won extensive sympathy and support from the world's people. The archbishop's murder has been condemned by public opinion in Latin America and elsewhere in the world. However, foreign forces will exploit this murder to step up their infiltration there through their proxy.

— "Beijing Review" news analyst Yu Pang

Hu Yaobang's Speech

— At the Second National Congress of the Chinese
Scientific and Technical Association
(Excerpts)

This is a speech made by Comrade Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, at the closing session of the Second National Congress of the Chinese Scientific and Technical Association on March 23, 1980. For the news report on the congress, see page 3 in our last issue. — Ed.

EXACTLY two years ago, we called a national science conference here in Beijing. Since then our scientific research work has yielded some new fruitful results and there has been a further expansion of our contingent of scientists and technicians. Our work in popularizing science has been reactivated and the Party and government are giving better leadership to the work in science and technology.

But it must also be admitted that so far we have failed to bring about an upsurge in the movement to love and study science on a nationwide scale.

Why is this?

We somewhat underestimated the adverse effects of a decade of sabotage by Lin Biao and the gang of four; we were somewhat overambitious and overanxious in regard to the process of the four modernizations considering how large our country is, with more than 900 million people who have long been poor and backward. This also applies to our plan for the pace of development of our scientific undertakings. It is precisely with a view to effectively changing this state of affairs that we have advanced the policy of readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the national economy.

While continuing to eliminate the vestiges of power and the pernicious ideological influence of Lin Biao and the gang of four, and



continuing to implement the various Party policies in a big way, we have firmly shifted the focus of the work of the whole Party on to the four modernizations. In agriculture we have succeeded in reaping good harvests for several years on end. The policy of readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the national economy has begun to make its strength felt. The Party's political, ideological and organizational lines have won widespread, popular support. Throughout the country the political situation of stability and unity and liveliness is becoming more consolidated and is being steadily developed. In short, our country has put an end to the serious turmoil caused by Lin Biao and the gang of four in the ten years when they had their way and it is heading for the four modernizations under Party leadership, in an orderly way and with great confidence.

Not long ago, our Party held the Fifth Plenary Session of its 11th Central Committee in order to ensure that the political situation of stability and unity will continue to consolidate and develop and guarantee the continuity and steadiness of the line, principles, policies and the collective leadership of the Party for a long period of time. In this way, the four modernizations programme will achieve a decisive victory in the 1980s.

Thus comrades can see what difficult circumstances we came through in the last few years. The contradictions we faced were multifarious and complex and many problems were waiting for solution. All we could do was first to tackle and solve the most urgent among these weighty problems, with the result that other equally important problems had to be put off for the time being. This is the main reason why some important issues in our scientific research and education that called for immediate solution have not been solved to this day.

Science is a tremendous force that propels history forward. Science is being transformed with increasing rapidity into an enormous productive force. Without advanced science and technology, there can be no four modernizations. Mastery of the most advanced contemporary science and technology is the fundamental issue that affects our country's future. We must, through down-to-earth organizational work, turn the Party's great call for a march on science into a real, voluntary action of the millions, into part of their daily life.

Some people call us the pragmatic faction. This is of course wrong. In the first place, our Party today is not and should not be divided into factions; it is an advanced, fighting collective, with solidarity and unity. Secondly, our Party, while taking a practical approach to problems, has always kept to our great ideal. We Communists should be men with both great ideals

and the ability to take feasible measures to translate our ideals into reality.

What measures should be taken to develop our scientific undertakings?

The first important one is to form with great resolve a contingent of truly socialist-minded, competent cadres with expertise.

Is there such a contingent of cadres? We now have a contingent of cadres 18 million strong. But quite a number of them are either not qualified or not well qualified. One, they are not qualified or not well qualified politically; two, not qualified or not well qualified in ability. They either do not fully understand the line, principles and policies of the Party or do not have professional knowledge and competence. The way to solve this problem is twofold.

One is to promote outstanding people of talent with professional knowledge and competence and loyal to the cause of socialism to leading posts. New China has brought up several million people with a secondary technical school education and above. Most of them, now in the prime of life, have undergone 10 to 20 years of tempering and testing and raised their political and vocational level to a considerable extent. Many among them are even better qualified than some of the leading cadres we have now. But the great majority have not been promoted to responsible posts and so their ability has not yet been brought into full play.

Another is to organize all cadres to conscientiously study the science, technology and knowledge of management related to their own work. Chairman Mao in his work *On the People's Democratic Dictatorship* written in 1949 had said: "The serious task of economic construction lies before us. We shall soon put aside some of the things we know well and be compelled to do things we don't know well. This means difficulties." "We must overcome difficulties, we must learn what we do not know. We must learn to do economic work from all who know how, no matter who they are. We must esteem them as teachers, learning from



At the Guangzhou Conference on the Theory of Particle Physics on January 5 this year: Prof. Chen-ning Yang chatting with his former tutor Prof. Zhang Wenyu.

them respectfully and conscientiously. We must not pretend to know when we do not know. We must not put on bureaucratic airs. If we dig into a subject for several months, for a year or two, for three or five years, we shall eventually master it."

Thousands upon thousands of cadres warmly responded to this call made by Chairman Mao; they learnt well, and this made it possible for us to win great victories in socialist transformation and socialist construction. That was the first time in our Party history that we studied anew. The situation now confronting us is very much like the situation at that time, except that our present task is even heavier and more urgent. We will follow Chairman Mao's teaching in this regard and, for the second time in our Party history, start another movement to study things anew, and do so on an even greater scale. History will once again prove that the vast number of our cadres are able to master things which they do not now understand!

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, I now formally apply to the scientists present today for enrolment. We wish to invite some of you comrades to forums or special study sessions and ask you to act as our teachers.

The second important measure is to build up the ranks of science and technology in a big way, into an effective force and a reserve for our country.

Who are the members of this effective force and its reserve? Our young people and teenagers. To enable them to really become such contingents, it is necessary to solve our educational problem in real earnest.

To run our education well, two big issues demand serious attention.

One concerns 160 million or so youth who were between eight and 18 in 1966. During the decade ending 1976, they should have been studying hard in either primary or middle schools, but the whole generation actually fell victim to the poisonous stuff spread by Lin Biao and the gang of four, who preached "it is justified to beat people, smash things and grab from others," and made people believe that "it is

an honour to hand in a blank examination paper." Now grown up, they are in their twenties or early thirties and most of them have gone to work while a few of them are still studying in colleges. It is our hope that comrades of the Scientific and Technical Association and comrades of the educational departments, the trade unions, the Communist Youth League and the Women's Federation will put their heads together and study this problem attentively. It is our hope that all comrades in factories and mines and rural people's communes too will take this matter into serious consideration and help these young people in a planned and systematic way, to enhance their ideological consciousness, raise their cultural level and increase their technical knowledge.

The other concerns the 210 million teenagers now in primary and middle schools. They belong to the reserves for the realization of the four modernizations. But the educational system and structure and also the quality and quantity of the students being trained are not adequate to meet the needs of the developing situation. Leading comrades at all levels, educa-



Wu Jichang (left) and Zhang Qixiang, both being cotton growers and national labour models, swapping experience when they meet at the Second National Congress of the Chinese Scientific and Technical Association.

tionalists, scientists as well as those who are engaged in the popularization of science must show the greatest zeal and concern for our students and the younger generation, and provide this readership with more and better readers, textbooks and various other reading material. We should create and form by all

means a social atmosphere in which everyone has a profound love for young people, teenagers and little children, in which everyone shows respect for teachers in schools and colleges who are training one generation of newcomers after another.

The third important measure is for the whole Party to give full support to scientists and scientific workers in their efforts to work out their grand projects.

Our country already has an army of scientists and technicians comprising theoreticians, inventors, innovators, engineering experts, agriculturists and medical specialists. Many of the world's top-notch scientists like Comrades Li Siguang, Zhu Kezheng and others had emerged from these ranks. They are the pride of the Chinese nation.

However, this army is numerically small and its standard is not very high. This is the very reason why the Party has especially placed its hopes on this contingent. Firstly, it hopes that they will take the lead in scaling the scientific heights and secondly, it hopes that they will do their best to train and bring up their successors.

I hope people in scientific and technical circles will establish and carry forward a fine scientific tradition. Scientists should have a real scientific spirit, that is, the spirit of practicality, the spirit of making breakthroughs and the spirit of originality and creativeness, in opposition to empty talk, superficiality and conservatism. Scientists should be able to respect other people's achievements and discuss things with one another, learn from one another, be good at constantly drawing wisdom from the practice of the labouring masses and also adept at absorbing what is good in the advanced science and technology of other countries.

This association is an organization belonging to scientists and scientific and technical workers, a mass organization as important as the trade unions, the Communist Youth League, the Women's Federation and the Federation of Literary and Art Circles. On the march towards the four modernizations, this association occupies an especially important position. To develop science, to develop education, to train

large numbers of specialists in various disciplines, to raise the scientific and cultural level of the whole nation — this is a vast undertaking to exploit mankind's intellectual resources. This association will certainly play a tremendous historical role in this respect.

Mirroring and representing the wish and will of the people of all nationalities in the country, our Party has set a great goal to strive for, namely, to realize the four modernizations. This goal has taken firm root in the hearts of 900 million people. A magnificent ideal which takes root in the hearts of the people is bound to emerge successful and no one can stop it.

When Dr. Sun Yat-sen appeared on the stage of history as a great pioneer of the democratic revolution, he wrote down the following words: "The current of the world is like a torrent: he who swims with it prospers and he who swims against it perishes." This farsighted view of his had inspired and encouraged many people with high ideals to dedicate themselves to China's democratic revolution.



Lecturer Wu Xiaoping has made outstanding achievements in dynamics. She is due to attend a Boston symposium in May.

Today, the historical current has rolled farther ahead than at the time of Dr. Sun. We have every reason to be more farsighted, we have the conditions to achieve more than people in his time did. Of course, there are new difficulties and new obstacles ahead of us. But no great victory is won without effort, without first overcoming all kinds of serious difficulties!

A Glimpse of Rural Life

by Our Correspondent Jing Hua

China's 800 million peasants live on 50,000 people's communes. As many of our readers are interested in knowing more about how peasants and rural cadres work and live, our correspondent recently visited a people's commune on the east China plain. One of the 35 communes under the administration of Wuxi County in Jiangsu Province, Qianzhou Commune has a population of 36,000, mainly produces paddy rice and runs industries and sideline occupations.

Qianzhou People's Commune

IT takes about 30 minutes to drive northwestwards from Wuxi city to Qianzhou Commune. I first went to the town where the commune's administrative organs and major public utilities are located. The town's T-shaped street is flanked by a post office, bank, department store, grocery store, chemist's shop, bookstore, photo studio, hotel and bathhouse. Just off this street is a courtyard with an array of flowers and two small buildings where the Party committee and commune management committee offices are located.

Government Organization

The Party committee and the management committee are the commune's leading bodies. Qianzhou's Party committee was elected by its 849 Party members. It consists of one secretary, five deputy secretaries and eight committee members. The Party committee divides up its work and responsibilities among its members while adhering to a system of collective leadership.

The management committee (which also functions as the grass-roots government) is supposed to be chosen by the commune people's congress which is elected by the commune members. But this system was disrupted during the Cultural Revolution and a democratic election of a new management committee has not yet been held. The management commit-

tee is composed of a chairman, who concurrently serves as the Party committee secretary, four vice-chairmen and nine committee members who are responsible for the work of agriculture, industry, culture and education, the Communist Youth League and the militia. Since many of the management committee members are also Party committee members, major commune issues are discussed and decided by the Party committee and then put into practice by the management committee.

The commune covers an area of 35 square kilometres and is divided into 21 production brigades according to the natural villages and the lay of the land. The production brigades are subdivided into 241 production teams which function as the



The commune's newly built cinema.

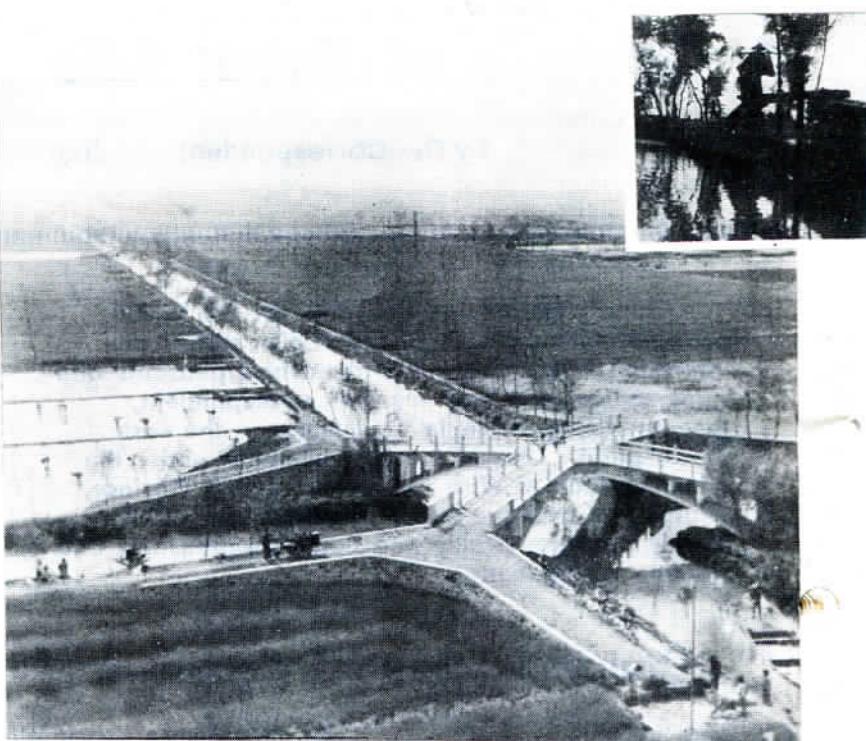
"basic accounting units" in this three-tiered management system. Responsible for its own gains and losses, each production team comprises about 20 to 30 peasant families and directly organizes agricultural and sideline production, decides on the distribution of income and handles matters of daily life for the commune members. However, when production plans and construction programmes for the commune and brigades are drawn up, the production teams must subordinate themselves to the overall interests of the larger units and accept their leadership. As the production team is a small-scale organization, it generally is unable to run industry, so factories are managed by the production brigade or the commune.

Changes From Yesteryear

As the Qianzhou Commune is situated on low-lying land, it often suffered from waterlogging in the past. According to *Records on the Transformation of the Lake*, an old book on the local history of the area: "On the low-lying land, water will swell a foot when there is an inch of rainfall," "A long rainy spell will cause a flood which will not subside even after half a year's suspension of storing water," and "In nine years out of ten there is famine."

After liberation, Qianzhou, like other rural areas in the country, went through land reform, the co-operative transformation of agriculture and the establishing of the people's commune. It gradually embarked on the road to socialism through this process, a road which has freed it from class exploitation and oppression and which will lead to a common prosperity.

Though this road has not been easygoing, it has brought great



A new bridge in the commune. (Inset) The former bridge.

changes to Qianzhou. A significant development in the collective economy has been effected by dramatically altering production in two ways: The monoculture economy of grain production has been diversified and water conservancy projects have been built, bringing an end to the devastating flooding. As Qianzhou's population was large while its land relatively scant, the commune used its surplus agricultural labour force and local resources to develop sericulture, raise fish and pigs and run sideline occupations and small-scale industries. Such activities resulted in an annual accumulation of construction funds, enabling the commune to buy 720 agricultural machines and in so doing mechanize 60 per cent of its farm work. Water conservancy projects witnessed their greatest boost between 1970 and 1978. The commune members built a 19-kilometre-long dyke across the low-lying

land, dug numerous river courses and underground drainage canals and set up 124 pumping stations.

Industry

Qianzhou commune has greatly prospered from its industries and sideline occupations. Its success has also brought it countrywide recognition; it was commended at a meeting of the nation's advanced units and national model workers held in Beijing last January.

There are now 80 commune- and brigade-run small factories in Qianzhou, including farm machinery plants, a small shipyard (the rivers here flow into the Grand Canal and Taihu Lake), brick and tile yards, cement factories, grain and fodder processing workshops, printing and dyeing equipment plants providing fittings for large industries, and electric pulley plant. In addition its embroidery mill and its goathair brush factory feed into the ex-

**Development of the Commune's Production
And Improvement of Its Members'
Livelihood**

Year	Grain (per-mu output)	Total agricultural output value	Total output value of sideline occupations	Total industrial output value	Per-capita income from the collective
	kg.	yuan	yuan	yuan	yuan
1952	145	1,805,000	356,000		
1957	155	2,180,000	430,000		42
1970	450	3,760,000	925,000	1,530,000	75
1979	835	5,500,000	5,450,000	36,000,000	165*

* Living costs in the countryside are lower than in the cities. Peasants have their own houses and wells, so they need not pay rent and water fees. Their expenditures on electricity and transport are low. They have more than enough eggs and vegetables, so most of their cash incomes are reserved for building houses.

port market. These plants produce over 500 varieties of products, with many enjoying a good reputation for their high-quality products. Their total industrial output value in 1978 exceeded 25 million yuan and

had a net profit of 6 million yuan. Thus as a result of its small-scale industrial efforts, the commune has an accumulation fund of 10 million yuan and its members' income in 1978 was double that of 1970.

Commune Party Committee Secretary

While at the commune, I lived next to secretary Qin Jiahong's room in the office building. He was not around when I first arrived, but I saw him early the next morning when he came in wet with dew. I discovered this solidly built, vigorous, middle-aged man of medium height gets up early every morning. The first thing he does is to make an inspection tour of the nearby production brigades. He comes back to the commune-office canteen for breakfast at about 7 o'clock. Before starting work at 8:00 a.m., he waters the flowers in the courtyard.

At the commune level, administration is integrated with

economic management. The commune administration handles its economic affairs and exercises all the functions and powers of a government organization at the grass-roots level. Undoubtedly, its responsible members have a lot to do. How do they manage? Qin Jiahong told me: "We concentrate on matters of primary importance and see that the Party and government principles and policies are carried

out. To do this well, we often have to personally investigate local conditions and search out people's opinions. We need to deal with a whole variety of matters from industrial and agricultural production to family planning."

"How do you go about your day-to-day work?" I asked.

"Take the day before yesterday, for example," Qin said. "I made an early morning inspection tour of a production brigade, then visited a new mechanized sericulture yard in a nearby commune. In the afternoon, I chaired a meeting of team cadres at a production brigade in the east, during which experiences in wheat-growing were exchanged. I also delivered a report summarizing the work of agricultural production in the previous stage and presented a plan for the next stage. In the evening, I called a regular Party committee meeting. Afterwards I read until 9 o'clock, when I like to listen to the Japanese language lesson on the radio before retiring."

Qin Jiahong and his family live in a two-room house in Wuxi city. His wife is an accountant in a chemical and building materials company in



Qin Jiahong (left) with tractor-drivers.

the county. They have two children; the elder daughter became a technician in a factory after her graduation from a university and the younger son a repairman in a radio plant.

This Party committee secretary started off as an apprentice in a Shanghai cotton cloth shop at the age of 12. Now he is a cadre earning 74 yuan a month. To this day, he has retained a down-to-earth work style. He does not go home at night though it would be possible as the commune has a jeep and a minibus. Instead Qin lives in a commune dormitory and eats at the canteen. He only lives at home for a few days at a time, usually when he has to attend meetings in the county seat.

In the years when the gang of four was on the rampage, empty talk and boasting were the order of the day. Some communes would falsely report their output in order to gain a good reputation. But Qin refused to drift with the tide and report inflated figures in order that his commune could be extolled as an "advanced unit in grasping class struggle to promote agricultural production." As a result, Qianzhou was dubbed a backward commune and was often criticized by the higher authorities. But Qin did not allow the backward label to alter his realistic style of work. At that time, some people who were influenced by the ultra-Left line criticized rural industries and sideline occupations as "developing capitalism." Qin Jiahong found things difficult for him, but since he was pretty sure that commune-run industries would help lead the countryside to prosperity, he stood up to the pressure and continued to work hard. His efforts were rewarding. The commune's industry and sideline occupations under-

went a great development, agricultural output increased year after year and the commune members experienced a rapid improvement in their living conditions.

After the downfall of the gang of four, the tradition of seeking truth from facts was restored. The Party and government drew up a series of policies and measures suited to the rural conditions (see "The Agricultural Development Programme" in our issue No. 12). Now that the endless political movements and struggles have ceased, people are beginning to concentrate their energies on economic development and socialist modernization. They feel the prospects for developing the countryside are bright. But Qin is not unrealistically optimistic. He told me: "Although reform has begun and some work is being done rather rapidly, lots of problems still remain to be tackled."

"For instance," he said, "there are not enough cadres with the necessary scientific and technical knowledge to meet the needs of agricultural modernization.

Some cadres do not know much about agriculture and are not well versed in management and yet they hold leading positions. They often give arbitrary orders which can cause a great deal of harm. As I see it, the need to restudy is an important problem confronting cadres in the countryside."

Qin also talked about some of the past problems with commune- and brigade-run industries. For instance, the commune never knew how much steel, iron and machines it could get as these materials were allocated according to a unified state plan and the production of the commune- and brigade-run enterprises was not included in the state plan. Thus the commune was forced to solicit help everywhere. Recently, the state has decided to combine the regulating of production by planning with the regulating of production according to market demands. This shift in policy has resulted in a more flexible allocation system. Qin Jiahong commented: "Things seem to be looking up for us."

Qin went on to say: "There



Harvesting silk cocoons.

are still a lot of problems, but we are forging ahead. Building up our countryside has just gotten started, there is still a lot to

be done. Come again in a few years and see what kind of changes have occurred in our commune."

A Brigade Leader

The Xitang Production Brigade is among the richer ones of the commune's 21 production brigades. By the time I got there, Tang Jusheng, a tall, lean man of 41, was waiting for me in front of a new building.



Tang Jusheng (second, right) showing a group of foreigners around the brigade.

He had joined the elementary agricultural co-operative after completing primary school in 1953. In 1956 he became a cadre and in 1959 he joined the Communist Party. In 1966, he became Party branch secretary and concurrently leader of the brigade. Half a year later, he was held up to criticism as a "capitalist-roader." The charge against him was that he paid too

much attention to production and neglected class struggle. As he remained unconvinced, he was dismissed from his post. It was not until 1975 that he resumed his post as Party branch secretary and brigade leader.

"Heading a production brigade is a busy job," Tang remarked. "I'm up at daybreak. While I'm still eating my breakfast, people come calling on me about all sorts of things. This morning, for instance, two brigade members came; one asked me to give her a job in the brigade's new sideline occupation — bird breeding; the other one wanted me to turn over some bricks to him so that he could build a new house. After breakfast, I go to the fields to see how the work is getting on and whether it

is up to standard. I try to get back to the brigade office around eight to begin my routine duties. If there is no meeting in the afternoon, I go the rounds of our various production groups to find out how things stand and help them in their work. I usually do at least half a day's productive labour during busy seasons."

Tang Jusheng accompanied me on a tour of the brigade's various projects. As we walked, he told me that there were altogether 2,200 people in the brigade; since it set up its workshops for making farm machinery and spray-dyeing machines in 1969 and began to develop sideline occupations, its income has grown year by year. We visited the farm machinery workshop, semi-mechanized pig farm, two-storeyed chicken farm, mulberry grove, fruit orchard and rows of new houses built by the brigade members themselves. Pig raising, poultry breeding, sericulture and fishing were especially thriving.

With more money, the first thing on the minds of the brigade members was to build houses. Up to now, 180 apartments (each apartment has five rooms) have been built in the four new residential villages which were planned by the brigade. What's more, the members can go to see the doctor, have clothes made, send their children to schools, kindergartens and nurseries, take baths, get haircuts and have their grain processed and the deceased cremated all free of charge.

In Tang Jusheng's newly built two-storeyed house, I met his 77-year-old mother, his wife Yu Binhua, who works in a commune-run factory, and their school-age son and daughter. While Yu Binhua was washing clothes for the family, his mother was cooking. The meal consisted of stewed pork with turnips, two dishes of vegetables and rice.

The grandmother told me something about the family. In the old society, Tang Jusheng's father rented land from a landlord. After paying the rent, little grain was left for the family,

and they had to make up the rest by catching fish and shrimps. In the early post-liberation years, the family remained poor because there were too many children and too few labourers. They had to depend on government help to make ends meet. In 1975 it cost them 2,400 yuan to build the house, half of the money was borrowed from others. The debt was only paid off in 1978.

Last year, Tang's family got

altogether 1,070 yuan from the brigade by taking part in collective labour. Private household sidelines, such as pig raising and chicken breeding, earned the family an additional 500 yuan. Pointing to the grain in the bin and sweet potatoes and vegetables on the floor, the grandma said: "Now we are no longer worried about food or money. And we are quite happy to be living in such a good house!"

discuss how to fulfil their plan for growing wheat. There were 11 committee members present, including the deputy team leaders, the women's leader, group leaders, the accountant, storekeeper, agrotechnician and Youth League branch secretary. In an orderly manner, he began by relaying to the committee members the assignments of the brigade, explained the present distribution of the team's manpower and how the work was progressing, and then put forward several questions for discussion. It was a brief but lively meeting. Every member spoke up, and a decision was reached very quickly. I concluded that he was not as inexperienced as he had led me to believe.

The No. 7 production team is a fairly large team, with 567 people and 26.5 hectares of paddy field in addition to its facilities for sideline occupations. Tang Weiming told me: In the past it was the commune and production brigade that had the final say in regard to the production plan of every team. Now the production team has more power than before. Now it

A Team Leader

Tang Weiming, a handsome young man of 23, hurried back from the field on his bicycle to see me. At the end of 1978, he became leader of the No. 7 production team of the Qianzhou Production Brigade. In February last year he was admitted

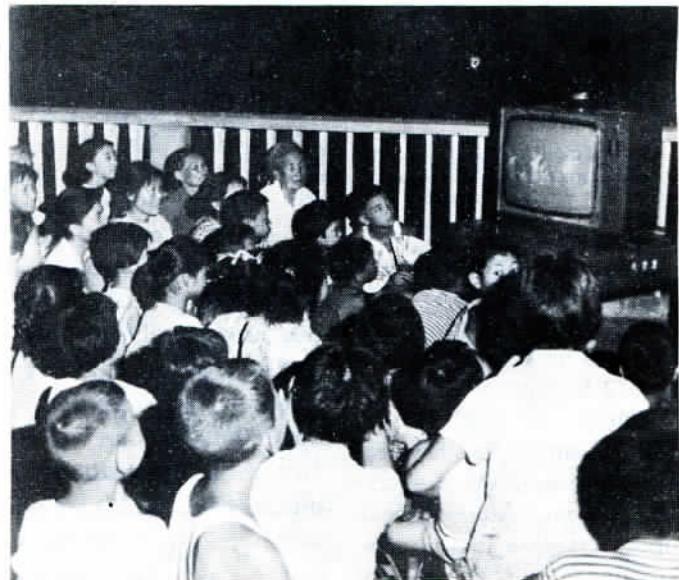


into the Communist Party as a probationary member. He told me that he had graduated from a junior middle school in 1973 and had been appointed in turn production team accountant, storekeeper and group leader. "As a team leader, you have to take care not only of production, but of all the team members' problems in everyday life. You can see what a hard job that is for me, particularly because I lack experience in so many of these things."

While we were talking, he

referred from time to time to his notebook. In it there were various figures: distribution of manpower, records of sowing time, number of pigs, plans for digging an irrigation ditch and for building houses.... I could see that the young production team leader had a good grasp of the team's production and the life of its members. In sincerity and hard work, he more than made up for his lack of experience, it seemed to me.

My belief was confirmed at the team's committee meeting to



Evening activity at the people's commune.

has its own say on such questions as what to grow, how much to grow, how to increase the output and how to bring the initiative of the team members into full play. The production team leader has much more to take care of than in the past.

Cadres at the brigade and team levels do not get wage incomes from the state as do those at the commune level. They get workpoints like the other commune members. The more they work, the more workpoints they get. The better the production in the team, the higher the cash value of the workpoints and the more the individual income.

Last year Tang Weiming, his father, sister and brother took part in physical labour in the team. At the end of the year, they got 1,500 kilogrammes of food grain and over a dozen kilogrammes of edible oil and some other agricultural produce.

After their payment for these things, (70 yuan for each person on an average), they got 1,320 yuan in cash. His mother did not take part in collective labour because she did the cooking and other housework for the family. But she managed to raise six pigs, which earned the family an additional 300 yuan.

Tang's grandfather died early. His grandmother had to work as a servant for a rich family to support Tang's father. So the family had few resources of its own. Their living standard was no higher than the average in the village. For the last few years, they have been putting aside money to build a house. Tang showed me a picture of his fiancee, who is a girl with beautiful eyes and short hair and now working in the brigade's embroidery shop. They will get married when the family has its own house.

and fourth are peasants. He also has three daughters: the eldest is a salesclerk, the second works on the chicken farm and the youngest is a peasant. Du himself works at the brigade's irrigation and drainage pumping station while his wife takes care of the family and does sideline work. All good hands at labour, they get 1,700 yuan in cash from the production team each year (after deductions for grain, edible oil and vegetables). With more than 1,000 yuan earned from family sideline occupations, they now live a much happier and more comfortable life.

In their old house, the Du family breeds ground beetles (*Eupolyphage sinensis*, used in traditional Chinese medicine) for sale, and also raises eels, pigs, chickens, ducks, goats and rabbits. From the back door one can look across their plot for personal needs and see their newly built two-storeyed house.

Du Jinnan is eloquent on the subject of domestic sideline occupations. He told me: "A few years ago there were all sorts of restrictions on the plot for personal needs. People could only grow 15 head of cabbage a season; if you grew more, school children would be sent to pull them up. It was really awful!"

An Old Peasant

Du Jinnan, 58, is a typical old peasant of south China. His face is a dark copper-colour from exposure to the sun. Wearing a woollen skullcap and an



old padded coat tied with a piece of cloth at the waist, he was watering the family plot of land for personal needs when I arrived at his home. His wife was boiling pig-feed, while his sons

and sons-in-law were whitewashing their newly built house.

He found a lot to say at the mere mention of the old society. His family had made a living by renting land from a landlord. Apart from a tiny plot of land and a dilapidated one-storeyed house, the family had nothing of its own....

In the early 1950s, after liberation, he had been active in the co-operative movement in the rural areas, and was once head of the village. But, at that time his children were all very young and life was still hard for the family.

Now all his children have grown up and taken part in collective labour. His eldest son is a bricklayer, the second, a veterinary surgeon; the third



At this point his second daughter chipped in: "At that time, all family sidelines were labelled 'capitalistic.' As a result, meat was so scarce that people rarely had any except perhaps on a holiday!"

Du Jinnan continued: "Now, things are different. So long as their family sidelines don't interfere with collective labour, commune members are allowed to take up whatever sideline occupations they like. It may

seem strange when you come to think of it — the amount of land is the same and the number of people has increased, yet we have much more than we did a few years ago. The main reason is that the present policy is correct. In fact, sideline occupations like ours not only provide a better life for the family, but also supply the market with much-needed goods. We don't hire anyone or exploit people, how can it be called capitalism?"

Both Workers and Peasants

I paid a visit to the home of Wu Mingshen of the Qianzhou Production Brigade. His wife, a plump elderly woman, was in the kitchen preparing the family meal; his second daughter-in-law, an expectant mother, was sitting at the sewing machine making baby clothes. Grandma Wu loves flowers, and there were pots of chrysanthemums, decorating the room and the courtyard, adding a sense of quiet beauty to the home.

There are ten people in the family: Wu and his wife, three

sons, three daughters-in-law and two grandchildren. Except for the eldest son, who is a worker at the state-run Wuxi Food Company, all the others are workers in either commune- or brigade-run factories. The living quarters are divided up into four separate flats built by themselves. Each flat has four rooms, a kitchen, a storeroom and a large balcony linking all four flats. This is a comparatively well-off family.

In the evening, all members of the family, except the eldest

son, came and sat around a big round table for supper, which consisted of six different meat and vegetable dishes and rice. Forty-nine-year-old Wu Mingshen was a worker at the Wuxi Flour Mill before liberation. Early on, he had served as an underground messenger for the Communist Party and joined the Party in 1952. He now is in charge of supply and marketing in the brigade's printing and dyeing equipment factory. His second and third sons are both workers in the brigade's hardware factory. His first daughter-in-law works in the brigade's printing house, the second, in the embroidery shop, and the third, in the radio component factory. All of them are at the same time workers and peasants.

Ordinarily these people work at their jobs in the factories, but during busy farming seasons (about three months a year) they go back to their respective production teams to take part in agricultural production. They have no fixed wage income. They are the same as other commune members in that they earn workpoints, for which they receive the money-equivalent at the end of the year when the cash value of workpoints is calculated. In addition, each peasant-worker receives 0.15 yuan a day from the factory apart from the workpoints they get. Those who do a good job are given bonuses at the end of the year.

Grandma Wu handles the family's finances. She told me that she recently suggested to her sons that the family be divided and each of them live separately, keeping his own accounts. Her proposal was opposed by her daughters-in-law. Obviously all of them considered her a good housekeeper, and wished her to continue as be-



Wu Mingshen (middle), his wife (third from right) and their family.

fore, handing over their earnings to her regularly.

Food and clothing are her main responsibility. She sees to it that each member is well fed and properly fitted with clean, suitable clothes for all occasions. She also raises pigs and last year sold 13 to the state. With family savings and money left over after building the apartments, she bought a set of furniture, a sewing machine, and a radio for each of the four homes. Recently she bought a TV set.

"We live a happy family life," she said. "My sons and daughters-in-law get along well together, and in general they respect my opinions. We settle family matters through discussion and co-operation. There have never been any family quarrels, really."

After supper, the family settled down in front of the TV set

to watch a football match. Wu Mingshen played with his two grandchildren, who loved to be teased. Soon their laughter could be heard ringing out above the cheering of the spectators at the sports arena.

* * *

Generally speaking, the level of production and living standards in China's countryside are low. Qianzhou Commune fares better than most. But the peasants' livelihood is guaranteed. Life in the people's communes is not as "grim" and "monotonous" as some people abroad seem to think. Now a political situation of stability has emerged throughout the country and people are concentrating their efforts on socialist modernization. We can reasonably expect that future development in the countryside will be quickened and life in the people's communes will become richer and more colourful day by day.

ly which included her mother-in law and two children, so the entire burden fell on her husband. Needless to say, their life was quite hard.

Then towards the end of 1977, she was given a job in the commune's goathair brush factory. The job is quite light, merely entailing gluing strings of goat-



hair which have already been sorted together. Now, she brings home an income and can also do her share for socialist construction. Han feels much better about her life now.

Shopgirl. Du Qinzhu, a senior middle school graduate, runs a shop in the Xitang Production

They Are All Commune Members

Agrotechnician. Tang Jiaming graduated from an agricultural middle school in 1961 and is now

tares. Their main task is to improve strains, introduce new hybrids and prevent and eliminate rice diseases and insect pests.

Tang Jiaming lives with his mother, wife and child. His family's income mainly comes from workpoints, while their income from sideline production is increasing year after year. They lent their last year's savings of 900 yuan as an interest-free loan to a relative to build a new house (usurious loans are strictly forbidden).

A Cripple. Han Yunzhu cannot work in the fields because her legs were deformed during her childhood. For years she was unable to help support the fami-



a technician in a 16-member agrotechnical team in the Xitang Production Brigade. The team has been cultivating a rice experimental plot of three hect-



Brigade with Tang Caiyun. Though small, the shop has no less than 800 kinds of items and is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The store is stocked by the commune's supply and marketing co-operative. So, the women's monthly salaries of 38

yuan each are paid by the co-operative.

Du Qinzhui, now 28 years old, said that winter is their busiest season as that is when the commune members are paid. Everyone wants to buy some new clothes. Some want to buy wedding gifts.

Tang who is six years younger than her partner revealed to me that Du is also preparing for her wedding. Even though it is a common practice to marry during the Spring Festival holidays, Du said that, as a Party member, she did not want to get married then as it would be inconvenient for many commune members to buy things during the festival. Her boyfriend agreed to put off their wedding until after the holidays. They are planning to spend their honeymoon in Shanghai.

"Barefoot" Doctors. One day, six patients were sitting on a small bench in the brigade's clinic. Shen Jingzhen and Gu



Baoying were busy attending to them and giving injections. These two women are professionally trained "barefoot" doctors selected from among the brigade members. They are paid according to a workpoint system. Now, each brigade has two or three such doctors.

As the economic conditions in each brigade vary, different methods have been adopted for

the payment of medical fees. In some brigades, the fee is shared by the collective and the individual concerned. In other brigades, a commune member pays one yuan a year and then receives his medical treatment free of charge. Another method is to provide treatment up to a certain amount. The Xitang Production Brigade provides free treatment to its members.

Shen and Gu, both senior middle school graduates, can now make a diagnosis, treat common diseases, deliver babies, give acupuncture and perform minor operations. They refer difficult cases to the commune hospital.

Gu said that they both have two children and have a lot of household chores. However, they take their first-aid kits home in case of emergencies. "We want to serve the people," she said.

Pig-Raiser. No one in the commune ever mentions Zhou Longdi without praising her.

Zhou Longdi decided to raise pigs even though pig-breeding is dirty and tiresome. She has heavy household chores and is not in good health. Her mother-in-law who supports her in this endeavour agreed to take over the household chores, allowing



Zhou to devote herself heart and soul to pig-raising. As a result of Zhou's meticulous care, there are hundreds of hogs and dozens of sows in the brigade's pig

farm. Every year, she supplies many piglings and earns a tidy sum for the brigade.

Zhou was cited as a model pig-raiser in her county and elected a deputy to the Jiangsu provincial Party congress. I asked her: "Why did you ask to raise pigs of your own accord?" She replied with a smile: "As a Party member, I ought to shoulder the heaviest burden."

Amateur Performers. Like most members of the commune's literary and art troupe, its deputy leader Chen Jianfang is good at singing and performing local



operas. The 18 members of the troupe (half male and half female) work in the commune's farm machinery factory in the daytime and rehearse during their off-duty hours. They get the same pay as the other workers and receive an allowance when they are performing. Last year, they gave 150 performances in the commune's brigades, most of which were orchestrated and staged by themselves.

Chen told me that the recently built 1,200-seat auditorium, the commune's entertainment centre, has been put at the troupe's disposal. They check tickets when there are films and are in charge of receiving other troupes. Last year, troupes from other localities gave 113 performances in the auditorium, providing them with a fine opportunity to learn from others.

MEDICINE

50 Million Peasant Women Receive Medical Check-Ups

During the last two years a general survey has been conducted among 50 million peasant women to determine the extent of cancer of the cervix, prolapse of the uterus, cervical erosion and urethrovaginal fistula. Up till the beginning of this year, 60 per cent of those suffering from complaints had received treatment and arrangements had been made for the remainder to be treated.

This general investigation and treatment was carried out under the unified leadership of the Ministry of Public Health. Doctors from county and commune hospitals, and more than one million barefoot doctors co-operated in the work.

The Party Central Committee and the State Council decided in July 1978 to give free treatment to those suffering from prolapse of the uterus and urethrovaginal fistula. In 1978, treatment and prevention of prolapse of the uterus and urethrovaginal fistula were listed among the 12 major research items of the national maternity and child care programme.

As a result of the training provided by more experienced doctors working in the hospitals of the provincial capitals or other big cities, the medical personnel in small cities and townships can now do surgical operations on the urethrovaginal passage.

Married peasant women under the age of 60 number about 120 million in China. All

of them are receiving or will receive a free check-up. Though similar general check-ups have previously been conducted in Shandong, Anhui, Guangdong and other provinces, this present programme is the most extensive since liberation.

of hybrid strains in a much shorter time. The hybrids are then sent to other places for cultivation and selection, playing a significant role in breeding good-quality, high- and stable-yielding new wheat strains.

This wheat strand has been cultivated and bred for nine generations in Shanxi Province as well as grown in another three provinces and on the outskirts of Shanghai. Experiments conducted in the past few years have proved that this wheat remains unchanged when it is bred at different altitudes or in different natural conditions.

Gao Zhongli, a 29-year-old woman with a primary school education, is head of a scientific research group of a commune in Taigu County, Shanxi. Eight years ago, she responded to the call to search for male-sterile wheat plants. She found one among hundreds of thousands of wheat plants which had been crossbred by the Shanxi Agricultural Institute. Later she and her research group bred a number of varieties of wheat strains with this plant, six of which have been grown experimentally in other areas.

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences have been working with Gao Zhongli on her experiments since 1974. Early this year, she began to collaborate with associate researchers Deng Jingyang and Wang Lin-qing in writing the paper about her research on the male-sterile plant in the last several years.

Gao Zhongli was rewarded last year for her achievements in scientific research by the province and commended as a national "March 8" pace-setter.



Gao Zhongli chatting with the president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences Jin Shang-bao, a well-known expert on breeding wheat hybrids.

SPORTS

Three New Model Airplane Records

The International Aeronautical Federation (F.A.I.) has ratified three new world records set by Chinese model airplane flyers at meets held in Shanghai, Shaanxi and Guangdong.

On the afternoon of November 20, 1979, Ye Jiading, 39 years of age, skilfully flew his radio-controlled model helicopter for a distance of 3,284.02 metres. He controlled his craft by a radio installed in a three-wheel motor-bike. With his eyes fixed on his model helicopter which was flying about 20 metres above the ground of an airport in the far northern part of Shanghai, Ye kept his model helicopter aloft for more than 6 minutes before landing it at a designated spot. He bettered the previous world distance record of 2,854.77 metres set by Ao Weixun and Cui Renzhi of China in August 1979.

Ye Jiading is a coach for the Shanghai Model Airplane Flying Team. After carefully considering questions of design, he decided to make his model airplane with aluminium components in the hope of setting several new world records. During trial flights, the helicopter fell to the ground dozens of times. Sometimes, it was smashed quite badly. But he never lost heart, and after overcoming many difficulties was able to set a new world record.

Hong Wei and his capable assistant Dong Zhibin, members of the Shaanxi Model Airplane Flying Team, flew a radio-controlled model seaplane with a piston engine for a duration of 9 hours, 58 minutes, 42

seconds. This broke the previous endurance record of 9 hours, 7 minutes, 37 seconds set by Richard Weber of the United States on September 2, 1977. Though the 22-year-old Hong was suffering from a case of dysentery, he worked with an indomitable spirit for ten hours straight. During the event, he cleared an engine block and solved a number of problems caused by air currents and wind velocity.

Chen Zhijian from Guangdong Province registered an altitude of 4,400 metres with his piston engine model seaplane, bettering the previous altitude record of 2,740 metres set by Zhu Yaozhou of China in August 1979.

PUBLICATION

Chinese and Foreign Publishers Co-operate

More than ten Chinese publishing houses and publishers have joined efforts or concluded contracts with their colleagues in Japan, Yugoslavia, the United States, Britain and West Germany as well as in Xianggang (Hongkong) in book publishing since last year.

Publications include books on tourism in China, relics, architecture, science, education, physical culture, history, cooking and dictionaries.

Pioneering the joint publication effort was *Touring in China*, a large album in colour devoted to China's scenic spots, places of historic interest, places of revolutionary significance, cultural heritage, arts and handicrafts, local food and other related information. It was compiled jointly by the People's Fine Arts Publishing House of China and Kodansha Ltd. of Japan. The album is in five

volumes. The first two, *Beijing* and *North and Northeast China*, came off the press last year and the remaining three will be published before July this year.

Sports in China, featuring China's Fourth National Games in 1979, came off the press last December. It is jointly produced by the China Physical Culture Publishing House and a Japanese press. The book has 370 photos and 100,000 words and is printed in Chinese, Japanese and English. A Chinese-Japanese sports dictionary is now being jointly compiled by the two publishers.

China — Past and Present, a large-size album with 380 photos illustrating China's long history and its present outlook, is being jointly prepared by the Shanghai Fine Arts Publishing House and a Yugoslav publishing house.

Books on science and technology are another major area for co-operative publication. The Chinese Science Press has been providing translations of Chinese scientific works to publishing firms in West Germany and the United States since this year. The Chinese Publishing House for Science Popularization and the Time and Life Books Inc. of the United States are co-operating on a ten-volume series of books, *Children's Treasury of Scientific Knowledge*. The first volume has already come off the press. This series is a revised and enlarged edition of that published by Kodansha Ltd. of Japan and it represents the first Sino-U.S. publishing effort.

The Chinese Historic Relics Publishing House, the Cartographic Publishing House and the China Building Industry Press have also reached publication agreements or concluded contracts with publishing firms in other countries or areas.

Food for Thought

A History of Modern Chinese Thought (中国近代思想史论)

by Li Zehou,

Published by People's Publishing House; Distributed by Xinhua Bookstore; 488 pages;

Renminbi 1.25 yuan.

Published in Chinese in late 1979, this book is the result of more than 20 years of academic effort by Li Zehou, a fellow of the Research Institute of Philosophy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. It includes 10 essays on Hong Xiu-quan (1814-64), Kang Youwei (1858-1927), Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), Zhang Taiyan (1869-1936), Lu Xun (1881-1936) and others. Most of the essays were written after the overthrow of the gang of four in October 1976.

In the book, the author posed a very meaningful question: After more than 100 years of democratic revolution and 17 years of socialist revolution, why was there a recurrence of feudalism in China as propagated by Lin Biao and the gang of four during the 60s and 70s in the 20th century? Readers might be enlightened by the study made by the author.

The peasantry and bourgeoisie were the main revolutionary classes in the old democratic revolution in China, while imperialism and the feudal landlord class constituted the main counter-revolutionary forces. The book gives a penetrating analysis of the ideological features of these opposing forces and their inter-relations.

The revolutionary movement of the Taiping Heavenly King-

dom which took place in the mid-19th century shows that the peasants were a powerful force fighting against imperialism and feudalism. It also shows that the peasants could not entirely free themselves from feudal ideological shackles. Their adoration of the power of autocracy, which had infinite authority over them, in the end turned themselves into social forces that supported feudal autocracy. This accounted for the inevitable defeat of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom in its struggles against feudalism.

In China, the powerful influence of the ideology of the peasants had a strong impact on the ideology of the bourgeoisie, which was sometimes twisted and warped beyond recognition. This was manifested in the various utopian thinking of small producers and the narodniks* thinking which coloured the thoughts of Zhang Taiyan, the representative of bourgeois democrats, and those of Sun Yat-sen.

Zhang Taiyan was a fighter against reformism in the early period of the old democratic revolution. His socio-political ideas were strongly influenced by feudal culture and the narodniks which were characterized by opposition to bourgeois parliamentary democracy. He rejected the autocracy of feudal emperors as well as bourgeois democracy, but stood for "autocracy" representing the interests of the peasants, the small producers.

Sun Yat-sen was a great bourgeois democratic revolutionary whose ideas and political programme were the most advanced of his time. Thanks to his loyalty to the cause of

revolution, and under the impact of the Russian October Revolution and helped by the Chinese Communist Party, he later advocated a political programme of alliance with Russia, co-operation with the Communist Party and assistance to the peasants and workers.

But even this great bourgeois thinker, due to the acute national contradictions of his time, always took "patriotism and national salvation," "national independence" and "national prosperity" as the foremost task of the revolution.

On the building of state power, the theory of genius was the basis for his doctrine of the separation of power. In his eyes, the people were unenlightened and had to be ruled by some "supermen." This thinking provided a theoretical basis for dictatorship by the minority.

Small production existed everywhere, like a vast ocean. That was why the bourgeoisie and its intellectuals could not sever themselves from the feudal forces. Herein lies the most important objective social condition explaining why the bourgeois ideas of freedom and democracy could not take root in China. Li Zehou's analysis of the socio-political ideas of Zhang Taiyan and Sun Yat-sen poses a question for the readers: If bourgeois ideas were twisted out of shape under this type of social pressure, then shouldn't there be safeguards against similar distortions of proletarian ideas?

* The narodniks were a 19th century Russian school of petty-bourgeois thought which held that the peasants were the main revolutionary force, capitalism could not develop in Russia, and intellectuals could lead the peasants in a socialist revolution.

● **Volcanoes in Northeast China**

A group of 14 volcanoes in Dedu County, Heilongjiang Province, has been designated a protected area in the interest of scientific research.

A decree issued on March 14 by the provincial government calls for the preservation of the landscape, forests, wild life, land and minerals, water and other resources in the 700-square-kilometre area.

Five lakes were formed when a river became clogged with molten lava which flowed southward from two repeatedly erupting volcanoes between 1719 and 1721. The two conical hills are still barren of grass and trees and a sulphur smell hangs in the air. Such clues suggest that these two youngest volcanoes are potentially active.

In contrast, grass and trees cover the other 12 conical hills where a total of 56 sanatoriums have been built. Between May and August every year, an average of 10,000 people are treated with local mineral water for high blood pressure, skin diseases and rheumatism. Now a special unit has been set up to research mineral water.

Scientists have discovered that the 12 hills were formed by lava, cinders, rocks and other matter which pushed through the earth's crust 690,000 years ago.

● **A Privately Owned Inn**

Tianyi Inn was opened by Qiao Tianmin and his wife

almost 30 years ago in the western suburbs of Beijing.

In 1953 Qiao and his wife decided to turn one of the rooms which they had been assigned during the land reform into an inn because Qiao's health was not good enough for him to earn a living through physical labour. The business was an immediate success as the inn proved an ideal place for wayfarers and pedlars to lodge. Then in 1956, Tianyi Inn was merged with other inns and later put under the management of a state enterprise. It became a privately owned inn in 1962, but it was closed down when the Cultural Revolution started in 1966.

It was not long before that the old couple reopened their inn. For even though the people's commune in that area has built two new hotels in the same neighbourhood which can accommodate 200 people a day, the inn's services are still needed. With a capacity of lodging 100 people a month, the inn not only has helped solve the shortage of hotel space but also paid 3,000

yuan in taxes to the state in the last two decades or so. Qiao is able to earn 70-80 yuan each month from running the inn, enough for him to support his family.

In China, while state-owned enterprises are the leading force in the national economy, a small number of privately owned commercial enterprises are still necessary. Inns like Tianyi are needed because state-run hotels cannot completely meet the needs of the public.

● **American Student Stars in Beijing Opera**

Elizabeth Wichmann, an American student at Nanjing University, recently played the leading role in the main scene from *The Drunken Beauty*, a well-known traditional Beijing opera, at a cultural evening party to welcome new foreign students to the university. One thousand people cheered and applauded the performance



Shen Xiaomei coaching Wichmann.



which included students from the Jiangsu Provincial Opera School.

The Drunken Beauty is about Yang Yuhuan, the favourite concubine of Emperor Xuan Zong or Ming Huang (713-756) of the Tang Dynasty. One day, the emperor requested that she have a drink with him to look at some flowers. But when she arrived, she found that he had already gone to see another concubine. Disappointed, she got drunk on wine and was led sadly away by her attendants.

Beijing opera artists who watched her performance commented on Elizabeth's smooth and sweet singing as well as her fine handling of a difficult role. Her coach Shen Xiaomei, a student of the late famous Beijing opera actor Mei Lanfang, spoke highly of her talent, her diligence and amazing memory.

Elizabeth Wichmann, 29 years old, was born in Kansas and speaks fluent Chinese. A graduate of State University of Iowa, she did further studies in drama at University of Hawaii in Honolulu and later went to Taiwan to learn Chinese. Last September she came to the mainland to research traditional Chinese opera at Nanjing University. She rehearsed for 100 hours before performing the main scene from *The Drunken Beauty*.

The Ancient Lingqu Canal

Renovation of the 2,194-year-old Lingqu Canal in picturesque Guangxi, was recently completed. It is now back in use and is also open to tourists.

Lingqu was built during the



People in the News

Communist Youth League member **Zhang Quanhua** nominated himself for the position of team leader in 1977. Since he assumed the post, he has been instrumental in changing his backward team into an advanced one. The per-hectare grain output in 1979 increased by 68 per cent over 1976. Now Zhang Quanhua is a member of the nation's new Long March (meaning the effort to carry out China's socialist modernization) shock troops.

Zhang, 24, was formerly an accountant for a production brigade in Jiangning County, Jiangsu Province. Xingfu Production Team, which his family belonged to, consisted of 40 families who had moved to this locality from eight counties in five provinces. The team's management was poor and there was lack of unity. During the last decade or so, eight work teams stayed to help the team raise production and its leader was changed seven times, but all to little avail. In the spring of 1977 Zhang wrote a letter to the production brigade asking to be the team leader. His request was approved.

After Zhang became the team leader, he did not give his family preferential treatment. Work was assigned equally; products were distributed fairly. As a result of his influence, other cadres also strictly abided by the regulations.

Zhang did not look down upon people coming from landlord or rich peasant families. Whenever such people made significant progress, they were also chosen as advanced peasants. The initiative of the commune members was thus mobilized and labour productivity raised. Zhang also sought people's opinions so as to improve farming methods.

reign of the first emperor of Qin Dynasty in 214 B.C. to link this region with the rest of China.

The canal, 34 kilometres in length, links the Changjiang and Zhujiang river systems. It is divided into a north and a south canal and has water diversion and discharging projects, dykes and 36 sluice gates. Even today, hydro-engineers admire its unique design.

Lingqu was one of the earliest navigable canals in the world. Up to 1937, there were still some 30 boats sailing on the canal every day, but later, with the advent of railways the canal fell into disuse.

Extremely Hearty Sugar Cane

Sugar cane planted 253 years ago is still thriving on a small plot in Songxi County, Fujian Province.

Both the yield and the sugar content of the crop on this plot were higher than on neighbouring plots last year.

Scientific surveys indicate that this field of sugar cane was planted in 1727. This variety sprouts in the spring after the autumn cutting and can flourish for over 200 years due to special cultivation techniques. Thus, this discovery will be beneficial to research on sugar cane growth.



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